

TEACH. LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.

EXTENSION SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

2021 IMPACT REPORT

MARCH



Sheboygan County
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Agriculture &
Extension Committee

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University of Wisconsin,
United States Department of
Agriculture, and
Wisconsin Counties
cooperating.

An EEO/AA employer, University
of Wisconsin-Madison Division of
Extension provides equal
opportunities in employment and
programming, including Title VI,
Title IX, the Americans with
Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section
504 of the Rehabilitation Act
requirements.



FOODWISE

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

#FDLSHBFoodWise

The Fond du Lac/Sheboygan FoodWise team introduces our new FoodWise Facebook page, which includes evidence and research-based health and nutrition information from the state and nation's leading experts. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Tasty Tuesdays: a weekly series focused on highlighting a specific cooking/food prep skill
- "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Thursdays: a weekly series highlighting an article featured in the senior newsletter
- Feeding Fridays: a weekly series focused for parents of young children
- Other various social media campaigns, in partnership with federal and state, including heart health, influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations, health insurance marketplace, food safety and food preservation
- State and local food resource updates

We encourage local partners/programs that are also on Facebook to:

- Follow or "like" our local page! [FoodWise Facebook page](#)
- Share our posts to their own Facebook page
- Spread the word to their colleagues, partners, and clients
- Let us know what content they are enjoying by commenting and liking posts
- Tag us during partnership events and classes by using **#FDLSHBFoodWise**



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationship Educator

In response to older adults in isolation, Jane co-facilitated the evidence-based **Aging Mastery Program** virtually in January and February. The materials for this 10-part series were provided free to participants through a partnership grant with the National Council on Aging. The highly interactive series focused on: 1) navigating longer lives, 2) healthy movement, 3) sleep, 4) healthy eating and hydration, 5) financial fitness, 6) medication management, 7) advance planning, 8) healthy relationships, and 9) community engagement. Jane is a trained facilitator.

Twenty-two participants were empowered to take key steps to improve well-being, add stability to their lives, and strengthen ties to their community through action planning, practicing tools, and group encouragement. All participants rated the series and knowledge of the instructors excellent and said the series helped them deal effectively with physical health and emotional well-being, as well as improving their social and community connections and personal finances. One participant said, "I was very impressed by the knowledge and the nice flow that each instructor addressed the topics. You all seem to put your heart and soul into bringing this program to fruition. Thank you!" The program will be offered again in April/May 2021. Participants can register [here](#).

Extension Sheboygan
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Agriculture Educator

Jane E. Jensen
Human Development
and Relationships
Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson
4-H Youth
Development Educator

Melodye McKay
Positive Youth Development
Associate Educator

Kevin Struck
Community Development
Educator

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(shared with Fond du Lac)

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

Land Use, Zoning, and Other Questions

This month marks one year since the coronavirus pandemic began to significantly impact the U.S. Based on phone logs and email records, Kevin answered **124 questions** from local officials, developers, and citizens over that one-year period. Here's a sample of topics:

- ◇ Farmland preservation zoning
- ◇ "Tiny homes"
- ◇ Well water quality
- ◇ Impacts of dam removal
- ◇ Allowability of uses such as beehives or chickens in a residential area
- ◇ Amending a town's comprehensive plan
- ◇ Setback distances for new septic systems
- ◇ DNR regulations for abandoned cisterns
- ◇ Nonconforming properties
- ◇ Best zoning district for a new paintball business
- ◇ Short-term residential rentals
- ◇ Grant funding options for improving public access to a lake
- ◇ Feasibility of a "cluster subdivision" with 50% open space
- ◇ Using an "official map" to reserve future right-of-way

Many of these questions arise because planning and zoning have become much more complicated over the years as new regulations and new land uses (e.g., cell towers, wedding barns, solar farms, accessory dwelling units, etc.) have entered the scene. Population growth also drives increases in questions as land use conflicts with neighboring properties become more likely. Another factor is the amount of turnover among local officials, especially clerks, so questions that may've been sufficiently covered five years ago can often pop up again.



A rural subdivision in the Town of Sherman

In the past year, however, there appeared to be two additional factors. One is that more people than ever before have entered their retirement years, and, consequently, many plans are being made for how to divide up or develop land holdings. Second, the "downtime" many people have experienced as a result of the pandemic have given landowners an opportunity to ponder new options for their property.

Although some questions can be answered within 15 minutes, the majority require extensive research and double-checking of sources that can take several hours by the time Kevin is satisfied that his response is worded correctly and isn't overlooking any legalities.

Virtual Agronomy Day Program Impacts Change

Approximately 90 area farmers and industry agronomists attended the virtual **2021 Agronomy Day** to learn about cropping systems research to improve crop profitability while protecting and improving our soil and water natural resources. This long-standing educational program was well received despite its virtual format.



UW-Madison Extension faculty presenting at the **2021 Agronomy Day** program included: Dr. Rodrigo Werle, Weed Science Specialist; Dr. Shawn Conley, UW-Madison Soybean and Small Grains Specialist; and Naomi Blohm, Senior Market Advisor, TFM—Stewart Peterson, who discussed “What Fundamentally Changed to Create Favorable Grain Prices in Recent Months. What is the Market Outlook Ahead?”

Evaluation and Impacts:

- One-hundred (100%) percent of those completing the survey indicated that they would be able to implement crop management changes from what they learned during the **2021 Agronomy Day**.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of survey respondents indicated that they either *Strongly Agreed* or *Somewhat Agreed* that the **2021 Agronomy Day** webinar was useful for helping them make crop management decisions.
- One hundred percent (100%) indicated that they were either *Very Satisfied* or *Somewhat Satisfied* with the **2021 Agronomy Day** virtual format.
- Lastly, 100% indicated they would like to see an Agronomy Day held in 2022.

Recent virtual programming has provided the opportunity to utilize specialists from other regions of the country. Two noteworthy specialists included: Dr. Jerry Cherney, New York State Forage Specialist at Cornell University; and Tom Kilcer, Advanced Ag Systems, a nationally recognized expert in forage management from New York State.



2021 Virtual 4-H Project Day

The 2021 Virtual 4-H Project Day was an incredible success and will likely be a catalyst for great 4-H programming as we begin to open up opportunities for 4-H members once again in the Sheboygan County 4-H Youth Development Program.

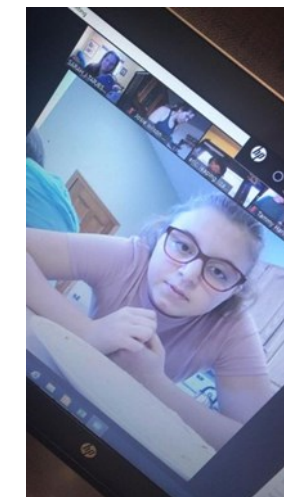
Forty youth and 9 adult and youth leaders participated in the day. In addition, many parents were involved—from remaining on standby to being completely engaged in the sessions with their children. The day took place over live Zoom connections, with each youth member participating in up to three sessions throughout the day. Seven sessions in total were offered, covering project areas such as Photography, Cake Decorating, Celebrate Art, Woodworking, Foods and Nutrition

2021 Virtual 4-H Project Day Leaders were offered the opportunity to participate in a “Train the Trainer” workshop in February where Amber Rehberg and Laura Huber, 4-H Educators and specialists involved with the Virtual Learning Community, were able to share tips and tricks with these leaders to help make their sessions a success. Additional support was assigned to each session in the form of an adult or older youth “Room Host.” These hosts supported the presenters with technology support, monitoring chat features, monitoring participants questions and pace, and ensuring that presenters were aware of any adjustments that needed to be made.

Evaluation data for the day is still being collected, but early results are showing that the communication prior to the day was strong and the presenters project selection and teaching strategies were successful. One family shared this with Sarah through an e-mail:

“We are definitely planning on filling out the survey, but I wanted to let you know that we thoroughly loved [our session leader]! Her teaching technique with showing her camera by her hands was perfect!!! It was such a fun project! Thank you!”

In addition, a flurry of Facebook posts just after the day ended showed that parents and youth were engaged, and were exposed to several new projects, such as the soap making session, at Virtual 4-H Project Day.



Skye Holtz, youth leader, checks in on participants as she leads Fun with Foods.



Participants posted photos of their work on social media throughout the day. Pictured here are the completed woodworking and duct tape rose projects.



Three kiddos learn how to decorate cookies using a wet on wet technique.



No that's not edible – it's soap! Beautiful soap from the soap making session at Virtual 4-H Project Day.